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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In the Matters of:

Case No. 16-10455-shl

BH SUTTON MEZZ LLC,  
Debtor.

- - - - -x

SUTTON 58 OWNER LLC, Case No. 16-10834-shl  
Debtor.

- - - - -x

United States Bankruptcy Court  
One Bowling Green  
New York, New York

April 7, 2016  
11:18 AM

B E F O R E:  
HON. SEAN H. LANE  
U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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Doc. #14 Motion for Relief from Stay / Sutton 58 Associates  
LLCs's Motion to Dismiss This Chapter 11 Case Pursuant to  
Bankruptcy Code 1112(b) or in the Alternative to Modify the  
Automatic Stay Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code 362(d)(1).

Doc. #25 Application to Employ LaMonica Herbst & Maniscalco,  
LLP as Counsel for the Debtor and Debtor-In-Possession.

Doc. #49 Motion for Joint Administration filed by Jordan C.  
Pilevsky on Behalf of BH Sutton Mezz LLC

16-10834-shl Sutton 58 Owner LLC  
Status Conference Re: New Chapter 11 Filing

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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 THE COURT: All right. The next matter on is BH  
3 Sutton Mezz LLC. And there's also a new case, Sutton 58 Owner,  
4 LLC, that I believe is just on for a request for joint  
5 administration.

6 Now, let me make sure -- I think we have some folks on  
7 the phone, so we'll take a minute to get them dialed in.

8 MR. O'NEILL: I'm wondering, Your Honor -- good  
9 morning. Brad O'Neill on behalf of Sutton Associates. I  
10 wonder if we could beg your indulgence for maybe ten minutes or  
11 so, so we can have a conversation with the debtor outside?

12 THE COURT: Yeah, that's --

13 MR. O'NEILL: That might help get people together on  
14 the phone.

15 THE COURT: That's fine. Anybody have a problem with  
16 that?

17 MR. O'NEILL: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 THE CLERK: Sorry, Operator. Are we still connected  
19 with the parties for BH Sutton Mezz case?

20 COURTCALL OPERATOR: You are. He requested to be  
21 listen-only. Do you need to speak with him?

22 THE CLERK: No, I just wanted to make sure we were  
23 still connected. Thank you.

24 THE COURT: All right. For the person who's on the  
25 phone listen-only, the parties are going to take advantage of

1 the bankruptcy court hallway, as is often the case, to have a  
2 discussion for about ten minutes. And so the Court will  
3 adjourn for a few minutes until they're ready to go and come  
4 back out in about ten minutes. Bankruptcy time it usually  
5 turns into, applying a fifty percent multiplier, about fifteen  
6 minutes. Thank you.

7 (Recess from 11:20 a.m. until 11:48 a.m.)

8 THE CLERK: All rise.

9 THE COURT: Please be seated. All right. So I  
10 believe we still have the party on the telephone who is in  
11 listen-only, and so I don't think we've gotten to entering  
12 appearances, so let's do that now.

13 MR. MANISCALCO: Good morning, Your Honor. Joseph  
14 Maniscalco, LaMonica Herbst & Maniscalco, on behalf of the BH  
15 Sutton Mezz debtor and the new debtor that filed yesterday,  
16 Sutton 58 Owner LLC.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 MR. DRAGHI: Good morning, Judge. Tom Draghi from  
19 Westerman Ball Ederer Miller Zucker & Sharfstein, proposed  
20 counsel for the official committee of unsecured creditors in  
21 the BH Mezz LLC case.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 MR. ROGOFF: Good morning, Your Honor. Adam Rogoff of  
24 Kramer Levin. I'm here with my partner Brad O'Neill, our  
25 colleague Natan Hamerman. We are representing Sutton 58

1 Associates, which is the secured lender in each of the cases.

2 MS. GOLDEN: Good morning, Your Honor. Susan Golden  
3 for the U.S. Trustee.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 MR. GOLD: Good morning, Your Honor. Andrew Gold,  
6 Herrick, Feinstein, pro se.

7 THE COURT: All right. So we have a number of things  
8 on for today, so let me hear where things stand, and then I  
9 guess we'll have argument on the pending motion.

10 MR. MANISCALCO: So from a perspective of the status  
11 of the case, Your Honor, yesterday we had filed the fee  
12 owner -- Sutton 58 Owner LLC, and the Mezz debtor has a status  
13 conference with this Court on April 14th. The Mezz debtor  
14 appeared at its IBI meeting with the Office of the United  
15 States Trustee. There's been a committee appointed in that  
16 case.

17 The fee owner just filed yesterday, so nothing has  
18 really happened. We filed a motion for joint administration  
19 yesterday. We contacted chambers. Chambers told us to email  
20 serve it on the parties, which we did, which is on before the  
21 Court this morning.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 MR. MANISCALCO: So with respect to that fee owner,  
24 the first matter before the Court is this motion for joint  
25 administration; and we have a pending motion to dismiss with

1 respect to the Mezz owner.

2 With respect to the motion to dismiss, we can discuss  
3 it later. I'm not sure if it moots the issue. And if you want  
4 to deal with the motion for joint administration yet?

5 THE COURT: Well, let's deal with the dismissal in a  
6 minute. Is there -- I know there was an extension of time to  
7 file schedules. What's the status of that?

8 MR. MANISCALCO: So the Mezz filed its schedules last  
9 night. So the Mezz had till today to file its schedules, so  
10 all those schedules have been filed. The fee owner filed a  
11 bare-bones petition yesterday. Those schedules should be filed  
12 within fourteen days. I don't anticipate any extension.

13 There's a substantial overlap in the creditors between  
14 the fee owner and the Mezz, and I think the initial position in  
15 the case from the lender's perspective was that the creditors  
16 did not sit on the Mezz side. Aside from the fact that we  
17 disagreed with that position from its inception, I think that  
18 becomes moot at this point, because there's a unity between the  
19 Mezz and the fee owner. This is one real estate development  
20 project on East 58th Street.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 MR. MANISCALCO: So --

23 THE COURT: All right, so anything else before we turn  
24 to the motion?

25 MR. MANISCALCO: The administration motion --



1 THE COURT: Well, let me -- let's do that one after.

2 MR. MANISCALCO: Got it.

3 THE COURT: Let's do the motion to dismiss first.

4 I'll hear from the movant on the other side.

5 MR. MANISCALCO: Okay.

6 THE COURT: I will tell everyone that I've read  
7 everything that was filed. And so people don't need to repeat  
8 everything that's in their papers. Suffice it to say, this is  
9 a motion to dismiss for a bunch of different bases. There's  
10 also a motion to lift the stay. Obviously one case -- well,  
11 this case that's the subject of the motion is fairly recently  
12 filed, which is obviously somewhat relevant. And so with all  
13 that said, proceed.

14 MR. ROGOFF: Good morning, Your Honor. Adam Rogoff,  
15 Kramer Levin, on behalf of Sutton 58 Associates. With Your  
16 Honor's permission, I'd like just to give a little bit of an  
17 overview which is, in part, an introduction on the motion to  
18 dismiss, but it's also, I think, to address some of the issues  
19 relating to the sort of preliminary status of where we are  
20 today with both the motion to dismiss and the Sutton Owner case  
21 that was filed --

22 THE COURT: Well --

23 MR. ROGOFF: -- because I think there's some  
24 significant concerns and overlapping --

25 THE COURT: Well, let me make an initial observation,

1 which is, there are often times people want to get their story  
2 out in court and get their -- fire their warning shot across  
3 the bow, announce their presence with authority, whatever  
4 metaphor you'd like to use, depending on your selection of  
5 movies that you like. And this motion strikes me as somewhat  
6 of that, which is you're getting your view of the case out.

7 And that's all fine. And you obviously have whatever  
8 rights you have. But my initial impression is, you're asking  
9 for relief based on -- that could only be given if I adopt your  
10 view of the case. And so you say it's a two-party dispute and  
11 you say there are no creditors, and there's an official  
12 committee of unsecured creditors.

13 MR. ROGOFF: Well --

14 THE COURT: Obviously, I understand you don't agree  
15 with that, but obviously there is such a committee. So you  
16 recognize that in order for me to adopt your characterization  
17 of the case as a two-party dispute with no other creditors, I  
18 have to disregard the very existence and the appointment of the  
19 committee of unsecured creditors, and that's asking a lot at  
20 this early stage of the case.

21 And there are other things like that, that I couldn't  
22 help but notice in looking at the motion. So there were things  
23 talking about a recent appraisal. I believe it was 181  
24 million. And so --

25 MR. ROGOFF: So -- yes --

1 THE COURT: -- the other side is, where's the fire?  
2 So you filed the motion really early. And so in doing so, you  
3 bring these kind of questions upon yourself. And so to the  
4 extent that you want me to be aware of your position in the  
5 case and issues to come, okay, I get it. But to the extent  
6 you're asking for relief and you want the case dismissed today,  
7 that obviously is a horse of a different color.

8 And I once had somebody object to joint administration  
9 in a case because they needed to make a speech about how the  
10 case was going to unfold and who should be in the case and who  
11 shouldn't be in the case. They knew they were going to lose  
12 the motion, but they needed to make a speech; they made a  
13 speech, and there we were.

14 So I just point it out because as a motion seeking  
15 relief, there are lots of problems.

16 MR. ROGOFF: All right. If I may, Your Honor, I  
17 think -- I appreciate the points, some of which, frankly, we've  
18 had discussions with Ms. Golden of the U.S. Trustee's Office  
19 concerning, and I'll address in a moment, and of course hope  
20 that she will as well.

21 Let me just state up front, this was not a motion to  
22 sort of announce a presence. This wasn't to sort of get before  
23 you first on what our view of the case is. And I know Your  
24 Honor pointed out and Mr. Maniscalco sort of criticized the  
25 fact that a motion to dismiss the case was filed at the early

1 stages of the case. I would point out, that is when a motion  
2 to dismiss when you believe a bankruptcy case is improperly  
3 commenced, should be filed so that we don't allow things to  
4 move by their own weight and then --

5 THE COURT: This may be the fastest motion I've seen  
6 in a large 11.

7 MR. ROGOFF: Well, it's --

8 THE COURT: So there's early stages, and there's --  
9 what is it, a week, two weeks. So --

10 MR. ROGOFF: Two weeks based -- certainly based at the  
11 moment. And one of the things that we wanted to say this  
12 morning is that we wanted to have an opportunity to actually  
13 assess what to do with the motion to dismiss in light of the  
14 Sutton Owner filing now, because we believe and do believe that  
15 the motion to dismiss, insofar as the Sutton Mezz is concerned,  
16 is actually, insofar as the Sutton Mezz is concerned, is a  
17 proper and appropriate motion. And I hear Your Honor's  
18 concerns, and we think we could address that in connection with  
19 a definitive hearing on that.

20 And it still may be something that we believe we  
21 should have the opportunity to present before Your Honor,  
22 especially because, if anything, the schedules that the debtor  
23 filed last night, taking six weeks to file, just confirm --

24 THE COURT: Well, they asked for additional time.  
25 That's not uncommon. I know there was a fight about it. But

1 ultimately, I was granting it in piecemeal stages, but -- to  
2 tie in with the motion to dismiss; but then the motion to  
3 dismiss hearing was on before it was permissible under the  
4 rules. So at a certain point, that becoming a mess, I just  
5 granted the requested. So --

6 MR. ROGOFF: I'm --

7 THE COURT: -- it is what it is. Are you saying that  
8 you want to adjourn your motion to another date to assess the  
9 filing of the other case?

10 MR. ROGOFF: Yes.

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 MR. ROGOFF: We are -- that was one --

13 THE COURT: Request granted.

14 MR. ROGOFF: Okay.

15 THE COURT: So --

16 MR. ROGOFF: So then if I can, Your Honor, let me get  
17 to responding to, I think, some of the salient points  
18 concerning the Sutton Owner, and frankly is something that we  
19 may need to file a motion on; and I'd like to avoid unnecessary  
20 motion practice. That is not our goal here.

21 THE COURT: Well --

22 MR. ROGOFF: We had noticed --

23 THE COURT: -- all I can say is, that this is filed in  
24 the initial -- in the reply papers that I got yesterday. So  
25 again, everybody has a right to do what they have a right to do

1 under the Code. And I don't have any illusions that I know the  
2 case as well as the parties do, but I think it's wise to  
3 adjourn the case so you can see the schedules, you can see the  
4 information, you can assess the owner, and there are -- I  
5 identified those two concerns as things that stand out to me as  
6 the elephants in the room on this kind of a request. So I'm  
7 sure there's other things to address. But that's fine.

8 So in light of adjourning the motion, what is it that  
9 you wanted to get into? The reason why I ask is, adjourning  
10 the motion means we shouldn't backslide into it and then --

11 MR. ROGOFF: This is not concerning that motion, Your  
12 Honor.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 MR. ROGOFF: This is -- and this is concerning,  
15 frankly, the part of today's calendar that is a status  
16 conference on the Sutton Owner case, of which, again, our  
17 client is the largest creditor. And it's reflective of one of  
18 the reasons why we've moved promptly, it's because they are the  
19 largest stakeholder -- the largest affected party by a wide  
20 magnitude, of what's happening in this Chapter 11 case.

21 And the salient point for now is that we had noticed  
22 and anticipated, and I'd inquired both of Mr. Maniscalco last  
23 night and again this morning, that the petition for the Sutton  
24 Owner was not denoted as a single-asset real estate case.  
25 Everything that we're aware of, which is consistent with, in

1 fact, the organizational documents of the Sutton Owner entity,  
2 is that this all concerns a development, a property, a project,  
3 I think is the defined term, that the debtors -- both debtors  
4 repeatedly use. And we were just informed moments before the  
5 case status conference started this morning, that apparently  
6 that is not inadvertent, and they are taking the position that  
7 there is some un -- as yet were told -- pieces of property out  
8 there that are not adjacent or connected with this project,  
9 that somehow remove this substantial project -- which is what  
10 all of the sort of positioning before the Court has been by the  
11 debtor to date, and that because there may be one or two other  
12 pieces of property out there, that this is not a single-asset  
13 real estate case.

14 Obviously that becomes important, because not only  
15 does it set the tone of what should happen in the case, but  
16 more importantly, it establishes what the rights of our client  
17 as a secured creditor would be.

18 So I think, unfortunately, since there seems to be a  
19 disagreement on this, we are going to have to file a motion for  
20 a determination --

21 THE COURT: Well, don't you need to get their  
22 information on the filing before you -- I mean --

23 MR. ROGOFF: We would love to get their information.

24 THE COURT: Yeah, so let's slow down a second. So I  
25 know your client is -- it sounds like it's filing a motion no

1 matter what the information says, which seems to me, frankly, a  
2 rather problematic position.

3 So there are disclosure requirements. People are  
4 required to meet them. I'm told they won't need an extension  
5 to meet them. It seems to me a real problem if you file  
6 something before you get that information.

7 If you're saying well, we know we have this big  
8 property and it's a project, it sounds like you don't know  
9 about any other property. You don't think there is any, well,  
10 let's find out what they say first. I understand the  
11 significance of single-asset real estate versus nonsingle-asset  
12 real estate. I know it affects your rights. But slow down.

13 MR. ROGOFF: Your Honor, I --

14 THE COURT: The reason why it's important to slow down  
15 is we can waste an awful lot of time, everyone's time. I read  
16 all the papers I get. I waded through Exhibits KK through FF,  
17 which actually I'm not even sure -- I'm sorry, it's FFF, in  
18 addition to things that had been filed earlier to get ready for  
19 a hearing in a motion that, frankly, seemed to me pretty easy  
20 to characterize as premature.

21 I don't want another premature motion. You may be  
22 right, as I said to the person who objected to joint  
23 administration. I overruled the objection to joint  
24 administration. It turned out the point he made was correct,  
25 and there was a time to deal with it, and it got dealt with and



1 it turned out he was correct. So that's fine. But there's  
2 times and places to deal with these things. So let's find out  
3 what they say and assess where things are, and then we can have  
4 orderly motion practice.

5 Given the fact that there was a representation in the  
6 opposition and nothing that challenged that representation that  
7 your client is -- that there's more equity in the property than  
8 you are owed, it's not that kind of case, so we can do this  
9 with the luxury of making sure we have all the information in  
10 front of us.

11 MR. ROGOFF: If I may, Your Honor? I appreciate that.  
12 And we are not, by any means, looking to file a motion either  
13 simply for the sake of filing it or filing it prematurely. We  
14 actually believe and we hope that the information as to what  
15 these other properties are should not take a full fourteen days  
16 to respond to. I understand --

17 THE COURT: Are you saying they don't get the fourteen  
18 days under the Code?

19 MR. ROGOFF: I'm asking for a hopefully quick  
20 turnaround just to identify what these other pieces of property  
21 are.

22 THE COURT: If you're objecting to the fourteen days  
23 under the Code --

24 MR. ROGOFF: I --

25 THE COURT: -- I overrule the objection.

1 MR. ROGOFF: I'm not. I'm not, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. So if you file a motion before  
3 the information is out there, I'm going to deny it without  
4 prejudice to reassert. Because it frankly will be premature,  
5 and you'll be arguing about things -- you say you're interested  
6 to know what these properties are. And I assume without that  
7 knowledge, you actually can't form a basis for making a motion  
8 that satisfies Rule 11. I don't know how you could.

9 Now, again, if your client has perfect information  
10 about everything that that entity has, great, then file your  
11 motion. But if you don't, I really don't see how you have a  
12 basis to file it. And so they get fourteen days. I tried to  
13 walk some sort of a line when there was an original request for  
14 additional time. Things got bollixed up because of the way the  
15 motion was filed on an improper hearing date. There's no  
16 request for additional time here. And I'm giving them the  
17 fourteen days.

18 If you were on the other side of this as debtor's  
19 counsel, you would have -- you know the speech you would give.

20 MR. ROGOFF: Appreciate that, Your Honor. And  
21 speaking for myself, if I were on the other side as debtor's  
22 counsel, I would send a simple letter answering a question as  
23 to where the other property is, without requiring people to  
24 wait.

25 Let me just state, since is it for purposes of where

1 we are, we don't agree -- because Your Honor made a statement  
2 that perhaps we somehow believe that we're over-collateralized  
3 and therefore there is time and there's no harm -- we don't  
4 agree with position. We'll deal with it when the time is ripe.  
5 And --

6 THE COURT: But I didn't see anything in the reply  
7 that challenged that characterization.

8 MR. ROGOFF: We didn't believe that that was necessary  
9 to challenge in the reply, because the reply -- the issues,  
10 Your Honor, before the Court --

11 THE COURT: So you realize what you're telling me?  
12 This is -- this is a real mixed message. So you're telling me  
13 you have enough information to wade in on dismissal of cases  
14 this early, but you, despite throwing pretty much everything I  
15 think you can think of in the record here, you didn't think it  
16 was something that you would address. I mean, obviously, it's  
17 relevant, right, in terms of the speed at which -- addressing  
18 this issue for me. Right?

19 Obviously, if you are not adequately protected, then  
20 that's in the Code as a basis for dismissal. So --

21 MR. ROGOFF: Well, and we do -- and we do state that,  
22 that we don't believe that they can adequately protect us, Your  
23 Honor. And insofar as the motion before the Court today was  
24 concerned, we did address that saying as to whether there a  
25 reasonable prospect for a reorganization on three uninhabitable

1 buildings, today, and an expectation and a dream of a  
2 development down the road.

3 THE COURT: No, I got that.

4 MR. ROGOFF: Right.

5 THE COURT: Again, I'm not -- there's a narrative  
6 about what's going on underlying the project and who did what  
7 to whom and how it should be characterized. And I'm not making  
8 a comment on that today. I don't have any ability to buy in on  
9 your narrative, but I don't have any ability to buy in on their  
10 narrative. I don't know.

11 And so but that's my concern about things being  
12 premature. Let's get the information that we all need to get,  
13 and then we'll figure it out.

14 MR. ROGOFF: The last thing I just want to note for  
15 Your Honor in the spirit of candor is that they have told us  
16 they're planning on filing some sort of a DIP motion. We  
17 understand that they're going to try to file a priming DIP  
18 motion. Obviously we would object to that when the time comes.  
19 We'll raise these other issues.

20 We did make a proposal that we would be willing to go  
21 back to our client and see if we could work out some sort of  
22 consensual funding process with the expectation and condition  
23 that there be an independent that is brought in to oversee the  
24 process, whether it's a CRO or some other type of independent  
25 fiduciary that's brought in.

1           And part of the reasoning for that proposal, Your  
2 Honor, is to keep this from devolving into sort of spinning  
3 positions and try to move things forward. So I understand that  
4 proposal was not acceptable. We'll either reiterate it in the  
5 context of when they do file a funding as a part of our  
6 objection, or we'll make a motion before Your Honor for some  
7 sort of independent fiduciary to be brought in.

8           But what we are trying to do is actually focus the  
9 issues, put aside all the noise about the alleged claims of  
10 misconduct, which we vehemently deny, but rather just focus on  
11 what's happening with the property and the most effective way  
12 to deal with these cases, especially given the fact that, at  
13 the end of the day, the unsecured creditor pool is extremely  
14 small, both in terms of number of parties and dollar amounts,  
15 in relation to the client's -- the secured lender's claims.

16           THE COURT: All right. Anybody else wish to be heard?

17           MS. GOLDEN: Yes, Your Honor. Susan Golden for the  
18 U.S. Trustee. Just to weigh in very briefly on the committee  
19 issue which Mr. Rogoff alluded to.

20           After we solicited and got the three responses, the  
21 U.S. Trustee obviously formed the committee. The secured  
22 lender reached out to us both by phone and also in writing  
23 questioning the claims that the creditors that were listed on  
24 the debtors' petition had against the debtor.

25           We reached out to Mr. Maniscalco as well, received a

1 response. The secured lender replied. Those letters are  
2 sitting with the U.S. Trustee to make his determination  
3 independently. I mentioned it to committee counsel and also  
4 reached out to the individual creditors to see what they had to  
5 say about that. I haven't heard from the individual creditors  
6 yet.

7           So that is what the U.S. Trustee -- obviously now  
8 there's an intervening case with the asset holder. And so  
9 we'll see -- I'll speak to the U.S. Trustee this afternoon.  
10 He's in Manhattan today. I would like to tell debtors' counsel  
11 that even though the creditors, I think, are substantially  
12 similar, we do solicit even when a second case files after the  
13 first one. So those -- I've signed off on it, so I imagine  
14 that those will go out, if not in the mail yet, they will  
15 probably go out this evening.

16           So I just wanted to let everyone know, including the  
17 Court know, where that status is. So just by saying that,  
18 well, the U.S. Trustee formed a committee, that's true, but at  
19 the time we formed the committee, we had no basis at all, and  
20 we still don't know -- we had no basis at all to think that  
21 there would be an issue and someone would raise an issue about  
22 the validity of the claims against this particular debtor.

23           THE COURT: Yeah -- no, that --

24           MS. GOLDEN: So that's where it is.

25           THE COURT: -- that's fine. I think it goes to the

1 lack of information. And again, I don't have enough  
2 information to make that determination. I'm not surprised that  
3 your office is the subject of a lot of people requesting your  
4 attention on that issue and that there's lots of people who  
5 shared their viewpoints. And I'm also not surprised that given  
6 the circumstances, you haven't had a chance to reach your own  
7 conclusion yet.

8 I think my take only is that I don't know. I really  
9 don't know. And we'll get there.

10 MS. GOLDEN: Okay.

11 THE COURT: But there's some pretty good quotes in  
12 cases dealing with requests to dismiss about what a draconian  
13 sanction it is, and that you're really not supposed to trot it  
14 out unless it's appropriate. So that's my concern.

15 So all right. I would think, at some point, we'll  
16 have a discussion about what the end game is and what the  
17 debtors -- where the debtors see this case going. Is this the  
18 kind of a case that's going to result in a sale to capture the  
19 upside of a potential project, or it's actually to develop  
20 things? I don't know. I don't know if you know.

21 But I obviously did have a very contentious case  
22 recently about a particular piece of property in Manhattan  
23 involving many, many parties who all had various claims against  
24 each other and they were all trying to capture the upside of  
25 the project. Ultimately it went to a sale, and the parties

1 agreed upon an appropriate waterfall in light of all the claims  
2 they had against one another. The case still refuses to  
3 completely die, given the bitter feelings that was in the  
4 courtroom in that case. I think it involved probably three  
5 times the amount of lawyers who are here today.

6 The only reason I mention it is because an enormous  
7 amount of time was spent litigating all sorts of things:  
8 injunctions, contempt. It was really just the playbook of  
9 everything every judge hopes to have in a single-asset real  
10 estate case.

11 So I, again, am agnostic about the merits of anybody's  
12 particular position. I don't know yet. The papers did a very  
13 good job on both sides of writing their narrative as to what's  
14 going on. I'm not in the position to adopt any of those.

15 I mention it to the extent that one of my regrets in  
16 that case is that it took as long and was as expensive to  
17 litigate as it was. I don't know if there was ever any other  
18 alternative, but to the extent that the parties here think that  
19 sort of an early intervention in mediation or some other  
20 process to get a third-party neutral to weigh in would be  
21 helpful and cost-effective, now is as good a time as any to  
22 throw that out, because time is money, and there's obviously a  
23 lot of people here today, and I expect this case will be  
24 particularly popular in terms of the number of lawyers who need  
25 to come. There's enough money at stake. So I pass that on for



1 what it's worth.

2 So with that, I think we can address the request for  
3 joint administration.

4 MR. MANISCALCO: Thank you, Your Honor. The motion  
5 for joint administration was filed last night. As the motion  
6 lays out, there's a substantial overlap. I think for judicial  
7 economy, for administrative purposes, it is in the best  
8 interests of both of these debtors to jointly administer them.  
9 It would keep the costs down. It's been served. It's a fairly  
10 simple motion. I didn't receive any objections.

11 I had conversations with counsel in the hallway and  
12 they didn't object to that. So if there are no objections, I'd  
13 request that the Court enter that order.

14 THE COURT: All right. Anybody wish to be heard on  
15 this particular motion?

16 All right. It does seem to be a sensible thing to do,  
17 given the narratives that are in the papers about how all this  
18 unfolded in the organization of the project. So I'll grant the  
19 motion for joint administration, obviously, which is, as you  
20 all know, not a substantive consolidation in any way, shape, or  
21 form.

22 So I think the last thing, then, that I don't want to  
23 forget to mention is, I don't know if you want to set some sort  
24 of schedule or rough framework for how to deal with this motion  
25 in terms of the case going forward. Timing-wise, if you want

1 to talk to one another first, if you want to wait to see what  
2 information you get first, I'm open to suggestions. If you  
3 want to set something as a control date, with the understanding  
4 that it may change? So any thoughts on it, Mr. Rogoff?

5 MR. O'NEILL: Why don't I -- Your Honor, Brad O'Neill.  
6 Why don't I suggest, we're back here next week anyway for a  
7 case conference. Why don't we defer that issue until next  
8 week. We can --

9 THE COURT: That's fine.

10 MR. O'NEILL: -- confer internally, we can confer with  
11 counsel, and we'll hopefully be in a position to propose  
12 something to you.

13 THE COURT: All right. That's perfectly sensible.  
14 And so I'll expect to get some sort of proposal or certainly  
15 your take on how to address that going forward next week. And  
16 hopefully we can work out a schedule even if people vigorously  
17 disagree on the merits of the issues.

18 So with all that said, anything else that we need to  
19 address here today?

20 MR. MANISCALCO: That's it, Your Honor. I think my  
21 firm's retention was on for today, but there's some additional  
22 disclosures the Trustee's Office wants me to make, so if we  
23 could push that to next Thursday, if that works?

24 THE COURT: All right, next Thursday it is. Anything  
25 else?

1 MR. ROGOFF: No, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. See you all next week. Thank  
3 you.

4 IN UNISON: Thank you.

5 (Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at 12:16 PM)

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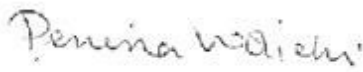
## I N D E X

### RULINGS

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granted.		
Motion for joint administration is granted.	25	18

## C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Penina Wolicki, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.



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PENINA WOLICKI

AAERT Certified Electronic Transcriber CET\*\*D-569

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Date: July 12, 2016

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